their equipment at a concessional rate of duty. Furthermore, import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector have been lowered and they have been made freely importable. Various incentives have already been announced for the agricultural sector in the 1993-94 Budget. These changes are expected to give an impetus to agricultural exports.

(c) to (e) Tobacco, cotton, mangoes and grapes, chillies and non-basmati rice are important products from Andhra Pradesh which have export potential. The policies of the Government have all India applicability, which can be utilised by growers/exporters from Andhra Pradesh also. For the year 1993-94, a growth rate of 12.5 per cent in dollar terms is envisaged for the export of agro-based commodities.

Export of Sugar

712. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of sugar exported and committed to be exported during the year 1992-93 and what are the earnings thereby;

(b) the amount of sugar proposed to be exported during the year 1993-94; and

(c) what is the extent to which these exports have affected or are likely to affect the supplies and price position of sugar in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During the year 1992-93, a quantity of 3.766 lakh tonnes of sugar valued at US dollar 112.26 million was exported.

(b) A quantity of 2.50 lakh tonnes of sugar is likely to be exported during the fiscal year 1993-94. At current international price, it is estimated to earn foreign exchange worth US dollar 71.5 million.

(c) The quantum of exports are so decided that they do not have any adverse impact on the domestic market.

Setting up of a National Centre for Trade Information

722. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI);

(b) if so, what will be the status, structure and the funding pattern of the NCTI; and

(c) by when the NCTI is likely to become fully operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up a National Centre for Trade Information has been under consideration of the Ministry. A Committee has been constituted recently to finalise the organisational structure, and to work out the objectives and funding pattern for operationalising the NCTI.